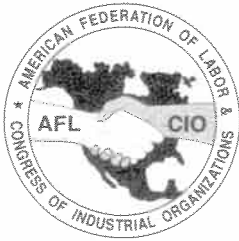


AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

JOHN J. SWEENEY
PRESIDENT

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
SECRETARY-TREASURER

ARLENE HOLT BAKER
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5057



September 26, 2008

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge your support for the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2008, which we expect to be considered before the Congress adjourns. This legislation, sponsored by Reps. Maloney and Nadler, would provide medical monitoring, treatment, and compensation to emergency responders, recovery and clean-up workers, and others suffering serious diseases as a result of hazardous exposures resulting from the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

On September 11, 2001 and the days that followed, tens of thousands of brave firefighters, police, emergency workers, and construction workers answered the call when our nation was attacked. They toiled for days, weeks and months trying to save lives, recover victims, and repair a broken city.

Now, as a result of toxic exposures from the World Trade Center (WTC) collapse, thousands of these workers and residents are sick, many are disabled, and some have died.

Over the past few weeks, intensive efforts have been underway to refine and tighten proposed legislation that would provide medical treatment and compensation for those who are sick with World Trade Center illnesses, which would be paid for by offsets as required under House pay-go rules. Based on those discussions, which have involved interested parties and the bill's sponsors, legislation has been developed that addresses health problems and litigation issues, builds in accountability and spending restraints, calls for cost sharing by New York City, and is paid for by offsets.

Specifically, this refined compromise legislation would do the following:

- Establish a federal health and compensation program for eligible 9/11 responders and residents, at an estimated cost to the federal government of \$10.9 billion over the next 10 years. These costs would be offset as required under House pay-go rules, since the program is an entitlement.
- Provide ongoing monitoring and medical care to World Trade Center responders and community members for 9/11 health conditions. The bill sets a cap on program participation at 15,000 responders and 15,000 community members in addition to those already enrolled in the current monitoring and treatment programs.

- Reopen the Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) for 30 years and limit the liability in litigation for New York City and the contractors to the amounts available under the captive insurance fund and their existing liability limits and insurance.
- Require a matching contribution by New York City of \$500 million over 10 years for the health program, approximately 10% of the estimated health costs. Workers' compensation payments made by the City for 9/11 conditions would be credited against this amount.

The AFL-CIO strongly supports this legislation which would provide guaranteed medical care for those who are sick with WTC health conditions for the rest of their lives and help resolve nearly 10,000 lawsuits pending against New York City and the contractors by those who have been harmed, providing an alternative to litigation and quick compensation to those in need.

We urge you to vote in favor of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2008. Seven years after the World Trade Center attacks, it is time to provide our brave 9/11 responders, workers, and residents who are sick the medical care and compensation they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Samuel', with a stylized, cursive script.

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT